

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON
Monday, August 15, 2016**

A special meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, August 15, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Richard R. Searle, Chairman; Patrick G. Call, Vice-Chairman; Ann English, Supervisor

Staff Present: James E. Vlahovich, County Administrator

Britt W. Hanson, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney

Arlenthe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board

Trudy Berry, School Superintendent

Cathy Traywick, County Treasurer

Tom Schelling, Special Districts Consultant

Lynette Nowlan, Finance Director

Mike McGinnis, Budget Manager, Finance Department

Chairman Searle called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Board of Supervisors

1. Adopt the Tax Rates and Levies for Cochise County Taxing Entities as set forth in the attached Exhibits.

Mr. Vlahovich presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. He said there were no changes from the information presented at the final budget meeting and noted that at Chairman Searle's request the rates for the Bowie and Sunsites Light Districts would be kept the same.

Mr. McGinnis noted that keeping the rate the same for the Sunsites Light District would not be an issue, but the Bowie Light District might have to use their credit line.

Chairman Searle said that even if Bowie would increase their rate, it would not affect them immediately and they would still have to use their credit line. He said that he had already discussed this issue with the communities and the electric company out there would be doing research for both light districts to see if they could implement any cost saving ideas.

Mr. Vlahovich continued with the final information about the budget and the tax rates and levies:

- Time and place for the setting of taxes rates for the FY 16/17 fiscal year
- The three county rates (County Property, Flood and Library) are unchanged
- Our adopted rate of \$2.6272/\$100 of AV and levy of \$23,905,223 results in a \$284,026 decrease in property tax revenues from last fiscal year
- The TNT rate is \$2.7068/\$100 of AV and our maximum rate is \$3.7579
- If adopted, these rates would result in levies of \$24,625,763 and \$34,189,399, respectively

Chairman Searle asked if there were any changes to the other special district rates.

Mr. Schelling said that the Bowie Fire District rate had decreased this year and there were no other changes to the other fire districts.

Ms. Berry said that there were still nine school districts frozen because once those districts lower their tax rates they cannot raise them.

Ms. Traywick said that the Tombstone school district had been doing great, but the Douglas school district was still borrowing from their credit line.

Chairman Searle opened the public hearing.

No one chose to speak and Chairman Searle closed the public hearing.

Vice-Chairman Call moved to adopt the Tax Rates and Levies for Cochise County Taxing Entities as set forth in the attached Exhibits. Supervisor English seconded the motion.

Supervisor English said for the record that it was not in the best interest of the County to keep the tax rate the same as it impacted the amount of revenues that could be issued to better serve citizens. She added that it was a business decision because it took a certain amount of money to keep current service levels.

Chairman Searle said he appreciated the support from staff and other board members in keeping the Sunsites and Bowie Light District tax rates the same.

Chairman Searle called for the vote and it was approved 3-0.

Chairman Searle adjourned the meeting at 10:09 a.m.

APPROVED:

Richard R. Searle, Chairman

ATTEST:

Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board

